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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Guatemala

SUBJECT Port of San José

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1. San José is the chief seaport of Guatemala on the Pacific Coast, and is only an open roadstead, deriving its importance from its connection by railroad with Guatemala City, 72 miles distant inland. It is located in Lat 13° 55' N, Long 90° 50' W. H O Chart 873.

2. There are two terminals at this port:

One is a combination dry cargo and oil terminal, owned and operated by the International Railways of Central America which consists of a long pier 920 ft from shore, with depths of 29 to 36 ft at its outer end and used entirely by small craft, (lighters and tugs) for the transshipment of goods to and from vessels moored in the roadstead. Tankers consigned to this terminal moor stern to their dock 400 ft distant with two anchors used for bow moorings and stern secured to two or more of the four buoys located abreast of the end of the pier, two on each side. Bulkiers discharge over the stern by means of a floating 8" hose.

The second terminal, or berth, is located approximately 1½ miles west of the IRCA terminal. This berth consists of mooring buoys - 2 aft and 1 forward on the port side. The ship's anchor is used on the starboard bow. The berth is about 1600 ft from shore in 40 to 47 ft of water. Tankers discharge into a submarine pipeline with hose connections on the port side.

3. Deep-draft vessels (B-2 type) fully laden can discharge at these terminals, when sea and weather conditions are normal.
4. As at other ports on the Central American Coast, winds at San José generally blow from a direction between south and south eastward and westward between 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM, then a short interval of calm follows. Winds accompanied by heavy squalls and frequent rains prevail from the middle of May until October. These heavy squalls always blow from the east and last about 45 minutes, accompanied by heavy rains.
5. Vessels must exercise caution while in the moorings and leave the roadstead when heavy winds spring up.

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